The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

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GOVERNMENT WORKERS MUST PROTECT RIGHTS

Washington, Jan. 18.—As an answer to the anti-union policy of certain officials of the postoffice department, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has issued a call for a conference of state federations of labor and city central federations.

"Attention is hereby called to an organizing campaign that is now being conducted by the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on behalf of the telephone girls throughout the country. All state federations of labor, city central bodies and A. F. of L. organizers are urged to aid this movement to their fullest extent.

"This appeal should be given for two reasons—first, because it is our duty, as trade unionists, to extend every possible aid to fellow workers who would improve their conditions by collective bargaining, and, because instances are reported where post office officials have taken such action in the case of the telephone girls that is equivalent to a denial of the right to organize.

"The trade union movement should take this occasion to impress upon these officials—and all others—that the organized workers are as opposed to industrial tyrannies as they are to the military despotism that has been happily overthrown by the united efforts of our civilization.

"Every chivalrous instinct in true American manhood responds to the appeal of these wage working girls, that post office officials shall not deny or fight accorded workers in other departments of the government and which has been sanctioned by the president of the United States when he proclaimed the principles of the national war labor board.

"The denial of any right by a government agency is a government whose first, appearance is too often passed unnoticed.

"Trade unionists must be vigilant lest their right to organize is encroached. The telephone girls are organized labor—give these telephone girls every aid, to assist the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers wherever possible in the molding of a public opinion against the conditions complained of, and strive by all lawful means to interest telephone girls in the trade union movement, its purpose and its value to the wage earners of our country."

AMAZING OIL PROFITS.

Bakersfield, Cal., Jan. 18.—The International Oil Worker publishes a review of new profits in the oil industry in the mid-continent field. The Tulsa and Cushing fields, in Oklahoma, is quoted as stating that the daily average production is these fields, December 1 last, was 1,000,000 barrels. At the price of 90 cents a barrel (the price then prevailing) this would have brought the producers $907,520 a day, $5,452,640 a week of seven days, $22,526,400 a month of 30 days and $146,742,600 a year of 365 days. At the present price of $1.60 a barrel the figures are, $1,818,560 a day, $7,931,520 a week, $30,504,000 a month, or $271,963,000 a year.

"History," it is stated, "can be searched in vain for a parallel to this great financial miracle worker. King Midas's golden touch was a childish fable; the Golconda, in Hindoo legend; the Aladdin, in Persian dream; Cripple Creek, a widow's mite; Goldbud's Gulch, Valley of Lost Souls, wealth of the Indies or the wealth of Aladdin's palace, when brought to Him, in comparison would represent a 16-cent side show to this great automatic money making machine, the oil industry."

The International Oil Worker makes this comment on these profits:

"And there are many of us who remember the plausible excuse of the oil operators that they would be unable to continue operating if they had to grant the eight-hour day and the $6 minimum wage."

WANT WORK IN CITIES.

Washington, Jan. 18.—In writing in the United States Employment Service Bulletin on the present Canadian labor situation, George W. Edwards says:

"The experience of Canadian officials in handling the placement of soldiers is indeed interesting in throwing light upon the problem which is turned men. It seems that the majority prefer city employment, even though this entails longer work. In explanation it is pointed out that after life in intensely cosmopolitan the soldier is never without the company of his fellows. Farm work believe that the returned soldier will be absorbed but so much by the farm, where lonely surroundings are almost unbearable, but rather by the factory, where the work will be done in gangs. Especially will the apply to the younger men."

FARMERS WARN SENATE.

Washington, Jan. 18.—In a resolution passed by the national farmers' conference the United States senate is warned "not to be misled by the president's plans for a league of nations," and—more important—the millions of organized farmers. The resolutions, which were cabled to the president, state that "the president has encountered through his proposal of the covenant of a purpose the hatred and opposition of the tyrants, profiteers and imperialists of all countries."

Then follows the warning to the senate not to "permit the fate of the peoples of the world, not the government, have been made free, if they will not be cheated of the fruits of their victory."

FEARS MORE PROFITEERING.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Testifying before a senate committee, Walter L. Fisher declared that the "prices would jump the ceiling" when the food administration ceases to function, if the government does not take over the packers control of the private cars, stock yards and terminal refrigerator plants. The witness appeared as attorney for a live stock association. He said that the extreme profiteering would not only injure the consumer but it would reduce production as stock raisers would hasten to sell even breeding stock to get a share of the temporary high prices.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 18.—The Typographical union last week signed a new wage contract, which establishes the following rates: Evening newspapers—Journeymen, $35 a week; foremen, $40.50. Morning newspapers—Journeymen, $33; foremen, $43.50.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Jan. 18.—Members of the Typographical union employed in commercial shops assembled work to enforce a higher wage rate.

GUNNING EMPLOYERS CAN'T BREAK STRIKE

New York, Jan. 18.—In few strikes have employers shown such cunning as the employers in private industry in this city, who have refused to accept the suggestion of the president of the United States that the national war labor board adjust differences between them and their 16,000 employes.

The president called these instructions from Europe, after a three-days' strike that paralyzed commerce and virtually tied up the port, "men ask higher wages and an eight-hour day, and have returned to work." The national war labor board is hearing the case, but the boat owners have refused to let a party thereto.

Involved with the private boat owners is the war and navy departments, the shipping board and the railroad administration. Prior to the strike an agreement existed between these five parties and the workers. A board representing all concerned was created, but later the railroad administration's representative resigned, as did the boat owners'. The boat owners were not filled and the boat owners declared that this abrogated the agreement. The national war labor board rejected this unusual position and ordered the agreement signed. The boat owners refused, which caused the chairman Manly of the war labor board to publicly state that the owners had "contemptously refused to obey an order."

The boat owners then seemed to realize that they had gone too far in opposition and proposed that a commission of 20 be appointed to make findings on the wage issue, but that the report should be made before 30 days had elapsed after the commission was appointed. These findings would then be arbitrated. The commission was to be constituted as follows:

Six workers selected by the workers, six employers selected by the employers, six employers selected by the workers and six workers selected by the employers.

This plan was filled with pitfalls for the workers and opportunities for delay, but the workers accepted it with the understanding that the 30-day period would be eliminated and the commission report as quickly as possible. This was rejected by the employers.

Then the president took a hand and instructed the national war labor board to take jurisdiction. The boat owners refused on the ground that the Joint Chairman Manly was "biased" because of his reference to them, although Joint Chairman Taft has endorsed these sentiments. The boat owners have waged a bitter fight, their breasts in rage that respectable and honorable business men should be treated thusly.

The employers are attempting to confuse the issue and thus their refusal to arbitrate by attacks on Joint Chairman Manly.

PLEADS FOR AMERICANISM.

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 18.—In retiring from office Governor Hunt issued a public statement, in which he pleaded for Americanism.

"The flag must stand for, just as it has been, the home; it has stood for on the battlefield, and we all know that in this we failed before the Germans were driven back two years. If the principles of social justice prevail, America citizenship, if it is to mean something that it has never known before, but if capital makes an attempt to rear its ugly head and inaugurate an era of greed as it did in the closing days of the last century and the first years of this, then this country will witness a period of unrest that will be wasteful in life and treasure, the saddest of all, entirely unnecessary."

Governor Hunt has waged a continuous battle against low wage employing interests during his term of office. He refused to permit strikebreakers into this state during the strike in the Morenci district three years ago. A settlement was secured and the copper owners started a recall against the governor, which he defeated.

DUNCAN FAVORS UNITY.

Quincy, Mass., Jan. 18.—James Duncan, president of the Granite Cutters' International association and first vice president of the A. F. of L., declared that the amalgamation of the stone trades unions in the current issue of the Stone Cutters' Journal. He says: "Unity is the question" but that this course is adopted.

Many viewpoints are being expressed by organized stone cutters on this question. Shall President Duncan says these details would entail endless argument. He says the question before the membership is, "Shall we amalgamate?" and that if the decision is in the affirmative the government will take over the stone trades first and decide to amalgamate."

DISCUSS WORKMEN'S HOMES.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Creation of a federal commission to study improved methods of financing industrial housing projects with a view to carrying out means of stimulating workers to own their own homes was recommended by P. J. Dimitrat of the industrial housing bureau, department of labor, before the senate committee on education and labor. The witness said the government established a loan system in the beginning that it would soon be self-supporting. Representative Lehlbach, of New Jersey, is for behind Great Britain and Canada in the matter of dealing with the housing problem.

BUY WAR STAMPS CHEAP.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The treasury department has been advised by holders of war savings stamps to either hold them till maturity or have them cashed at a profit. Owing to plants have been made that brokers are buying these stamps at low prices, and it is urged that they be redeemed at post offices, if it is necessary to do so.

In Milwaukee, where these brokers are active, stamps are purchased for $3.75 and sold for $4.00. It is declared.

MEAT TRUST POWER GROWS.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Chairman Gray, of the federal trade commission, before the house interstate commerce committee, said that if the present tendency of the "big five" packing companies is allowed to continue they will within 10 years, be able to dictate to the American people just what they shall eat, how it shall be prepared or sold and just how much shall be paid for it.

Try to Smash Unions By Use of Detectives Says Chairman Manly

Washington, Jan. 18.—In a speech in this city Joint Chairman Manly of the national war labor board said "there are little groups of irresponsible anarchistic employers all over the country" who are refusing to arbitrate labor disputes and who, in many instances, use detectives "to provoke violence and the use of dynamite and all sorts of other unlawful methods."

The speaker declared that the employment of these detectives is widespread, and cited the instance of how these employers operate:

"A little group of mill workers brought their complaints before the national war labor board. The employers reply in that case was that they were a lot of I. W. W.'s, anarchists, bolsheviki, etc. We investigated the whole thing in the matter, so we got agents to the records of the department of justice and we found that the leader of the so-called I. W. W.'s, the bolsheviki and anarchists was a detective in the pay of this very employer who made the charge against him."

STREET CAR MEN WIN.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 18.—The Georgia Railway and Power company has abandoned its anti-union attitude and has agreed to an agreement with its organized motormen and conductors. The company's opposition to union labor has been the cause of much turmoil during the past three years. The company officials, however, have concluded that strikes do not pay and they have promised to cease victimizing the employes.

Under the agreement, which was negotiated by Assistant President of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, the company will also employ no to wear their union button, will meet committees of the union, will reinstate within the next 15 days, 22 union men who were discharged in 1916 and eight who were suspended in 1917, besides agreeing to a number of other demands for which the men have been asking for the past three years.

A definite wage scale has been accepted. Raises range from 35 cents an hour for the lowest paid employes, vice to 40 cents an hour after one year's service. Wages of employes other than motormen and conductors has been referred to the national war labor board.

CENSORSHIP CHARGED.

New York, Jan. 18.—The central federated union has indorsed a resolution presented by Frank Sheehan (union No. 10) in which it is charged that the new post office officials censor bulletins issued by the National Federation of Postal Employes.

The resolution declares that any News in these bulletins that are "obnoxious to the interests of profiteering officials" shall be suppressed. Action is given official sanction to be posted on the bulletin boards, but the news bulletins happen to refer to a debate in congress in which the officials are criticized, the bulletins, then Postmaster Patten and his subordinates have been called out the whole truth or condemn the entire bulletin and deny the employes the opportunity to read it.

"At a time when we are supposed to be extending the benefits of democracy to benighted portions of Europe, we, as American citizens, can hardly permit our employes to be subjected to ratio to treat its employes with such despotism," says the resolution.

The central federated union asks that this question be investigated by a congressional committee.

HEALTH TALKS TO SOLDIERS.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The office of surgeon general of the army has prepared a series of talks on health which will be given to all soldiers before they are mustered out. These will teach the proper care of the body, how to protect against communicable diseases, the value of inoculation against disease, prevention of epidemics, general sanitation as applied to civil communities and other subjects of vital interest.

In a statement by the surgeon general it is declared that the men have been benefited by the restraints from indulgence enforced by the army, by the campaign for personal hygiene and by the knowledge of measures to be taken for public health. It is believed these will result in a demand for improved community sanitation when they return to civilian life.

LABOR PARTY IN NEW YORK.

New York, Jan. 18.—A labor party was formed in this city at a conference attended by several hundred organized workers, representing approximately 100 trade unions. The platform includes President Wilson's peace program, the abolishment of the injunction, general sanitation as applied to civil communities and other subjects of vital interest.

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MUST PAY FOR FATALITIES.

Hazelton, Pa., Jan. 18.—The anthracite coal operators have at last decided the request of coal operators for the abrogation of the workmen rule that 100 be paid the families or heirs of all miners killed or totally injured at work, and that in consideration of this payment the colliery shall not suspend for the day of funeral.

While this arrangement was made during the war to keep up coal production, it has been decided by it to be an essential measure to maintain the status quo for a time, as the market demands are unusually heavy.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS OUT.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 18.—Because their employers refused to accept a wage demand, organized electrical workers have been idle for a week. One contractor is so bitter in his opposition to the union that he forfeited a large contract.

COAL DRIVERS WIN.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 18.—Coal drivers have won their strike and raised wages 20 cents a day. The new rate is $2.80 a day. Time and one-half will be paid for overtime and double time for Sundays and legal holidays.

METAL TRADES NAMES ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Washington, Jan. 18.—The A. F. of L. metal trades department announced that affiliates have agreed on the following representatives of international unions to serve as an adjustment board, on the part of the member representing the Bethlehem ship building corporation:

W. H. Johnston, president machinists; Louis Wernal, acting president boilermakers; J. W. Kline, president blacksmiths; J. J. Hynes, president international union of U. A. Nessen, acting president electrical workers.

In a circular to executives of affiliates, President O'Connell of the A. F. of L. metal trades department, says:

"The agreement is a new departure from the plans usually adopted for the adjustment of differences between companies and workmen. It provides for an international committee to be composed of five international officers of our organizations, and five representatives of the shipbuilding company. This board is to be a clearing house and final court of appeal where grievances can be adjusted locally.

"It is the intention to establish an office where the business of the adjustment board will be conducted by two secretaries—one to be selected by the company and one to be selected by our national committee. The expenses of these secretaries are to be borne equally by the parties. Their duties will be, among other and more important things, to visit the plants as the representatives of the national committee with a view to adjusting grievances that have been not adjusted locally and to report their findings and investigations to the national committee.

"We believe we have accomplished, in the interests of both the government, an achievement that we can all feel feel proud of because we hope to be able to extend this to other ship yards, singly or jointly, and to other large corporations."

UNION RECORDS ACCIDENTS.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—The industrial accident agreement between Britain and Structural Iron Workers' union No. 1 is attracting attention because of the extensive system of records which all elements connected with fatalities and non-fatal accidents to its members.

In its last report, just issued, it is stated that the chief accomplishment of these reports is to enable members of the union to learn the prevalence of accidents in their demand for remedial legislation.

Such statistics, it is considered, also give force and strength to the demand for compulsory, state accident compensation law be amended.

The report is referred to in a recent publication issued by the bureau of labor statistics:

"Aside from the (imperial) industrial value in throwing much light upon accidents in a very hazardous trade, the value of such statistics as representing one of the few instances of a trade union attempt to effect co-operation scientifically the accident problem as affecting itself."

WOMEN FORCED IN FACTORY.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The increased cost of living sent most Olio women into the factories, the national war labor board, reports Miss Rachel Gallagher, of the United States employment service, in this city.

"Curiously enough," she says, "the men of Olio seem to feel so strongly that most of the women with whom I talked mentioned. They pointed out that the cost of living has advanced too much of a strain on their husbands' earnings to allow their wives to work. Miss Gallagher says that relatively few Ohio women took the place of men in heavy work, which is because the government's plan of substituting women was halted by the ending of hostilities.

"Dayton furnished the only instance where any number of women had previously employed went to work. The Dayton women are the most part are ready to go back to their homes."

WIN IMPORTANT POINT.

Scranton, Pa., Jan. 18.—A decision far-reaching in its effect upon wages of 125,000 anthracite miners has been made by Judge Alfred Darlington of the anthracite board of conciliation, which has been hearing the case of the steel colliery, near this city, are entitled to higher rates of pay for gangway work.

The finding carries large sums of back wages with it, and is to the effect that the coal operators must settle the issue between the union and the agreement between the union and the producers' committee.

The Hallstead miners called a gangway an "airway," and tried to have the company officials, the umpire upheld the men in their contention that they worked in a gangway, the matter what the company called it.

FIRE SAFETY LAW UPHELD.

New York, Jan. 18.—The factory exit law, providing safety measures against fire-trap buildings, has been upheld by the appellate division of the supreme court.

This law grew out of the popular demand for legislation following the Triangle Waist company fire in March 1911, in which 146 lost their lives by being caught in this fire trap. The law was passed, but many did not deter property owners from making a profit out of this horror, and, finally, remedial legislation was contested.

WOULD BREAK CONTRACT.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 18.—Officers of District No. 17, United Mine Workers, have intimated that the miners of mines are attempting to precipitate local strikes by ignoring contracts made between the parties and until the end of the war. The officials give notice that no strikes will be sanctioned. Until that time the contract will be adhered to, to safeguard against trouble makers.

DISCUSS FIVE-DAY WEEK.

San Francisco, Jan. 18.—Organized painters in this city and vicinity are voting on a five-day week. Advocates of the five-day week contend that Saturday labor will distribute work more evenly and give more time for recreation and education.

PACKER'S BIG PROFITS.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—According to the report of Swift & Company, the meat packers, this concern made a clear profit of $9,000,000 last year.

LANE TELLS CONGRESS PLAN TO AID SOLDIERS

Washington, Jan. 18.—At an informal meeting of the members of congress, held in the house chamber, Secretary of the Interior Lane urged favorable consideration of his land reclamation bill.

An appropriation of $100,000,000 is asked for the reclamation and occupation of 212,000,000 acres of tillable soil in this country by returned soldiers.

As outlined by Secretary Lane the plan provides that disbursed money shall be employed at current wages on vast reclamation schemes to practically every state and that later they will be permitted to select a section of the public land for farming purposes, the government furnishing money to pay for the cost of development. The soldiers will begin with the full cost of the land and interest, will later be returned to the government.

"The project will not cost the government a penny," Secretary Lane said. "Full payment for the land will be made within 40 years. Not only will the government make an appropriation to further a charity scheme. The soldiers will not consent to such a scheme, anyhow.

"Instead, they feel that the government help them for the time being, but they know that the government will be ultimately much the richer."

Necessity for haste in making the appropriation was pointed out by Secretary Lane, because men are being discharged from the service at the rate of thousands a day, and provision for employment must be made before they become a public charge.

"It would be unthinkable that the government should permit these men to search in vain for work," he said, "after they have willingly laid down good jobs to help the country in its hour of need and have risked their lives if necessary. Who can say that the demand for labor will not soon be satisfied, and that these soldiers will have to drift aimlessly from city to city, living from hand to mouth?

"If this country appropriated an amount equal to the wealth that contributed by Australia it would give $4,000,000,000 for the work. However, this would provide the employment of 200,000 men and will result in the development of 5,000 farms, and that will serve well as a beginning."

ACCIDENTS REDUCED.

San Francisco, Jan. 18.—The annual report of the industrial accident commission shows that "safety first" campaigns bring results. The outstanding feature of the report is that there were 31 less industrial death in California during the year 1918. In view of the increase of hazardous employment the commission points out that this record is a matter of better team work between employer and employed.

The commission has commenced a careful investigation to learn definitely what has caused the 31 less industrially 7,700 permanently injured men, 1,000 less than in 1917, and 1,000 less than between January 1, 1911, and July 1, 1914, when the 10 hours law was in force, that about one case out of every five is severe enough to constitute a serious hazard. The commission, in its trial re-education of the permanently injured men, has found that compensation law fulfils its true purpose unless included under its activities is a determined effort to reduce the number of injuries into new wage-earning capacities, the commission says.

FOREIGNERS IN DETROIT.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 18.—In a publicity campaign against non-union foreign workers, the Detroit Metal Makers' union No. 12 quotes statistics that show one-third of the population in this city to be foreign, as follows:

Germans, 150,000; Polish, 120,000; Jewish, 40,000; Italian, 40,000; Hungarian 28,000; Rumanian, 28,000; Russian-Siberian, 25,000; Syrian, 12,000; Swedish, 10,000; Russian, 10,000; Greek, 8,000; Serbian, 8,000; Belgian, 6,000; Lithuanian, 6,000; Armenian, 4,000; Danish, 3,000; Croatian, 3,000; Finnish, 2,000.

"From these figures," the unionists state, "an idea can be gained why owners of Detroit's non-union cigar factories love to build their plants outside the city limits, neighborhood of Detroit's foreign district. Some cigar girls live next door and can be seen working at 7 a. m. and quit their labor for practically nothing."

U. S. WILL HOUSE WORKERS.

Washington, Jan. 18.—"We applied the tactics of trade unions," said one war worker as she referred to the plan of housing workers in the housing bureau of the department of labor, which is considering the plan of work on buildings in this city intended to house war workers.

German, Italian and Polish signed the senate passed a resolution ordering that other work in addition be stopped. While the question was being investigated by the house committee on public buildings, the war workers delayed their relatives from Europe, and complained of overprofiteering and with the shameless manner in which many of them are treated. The congressmen then heard from "back home" and the senate resolution was side tracked.

FIRES CAUSE MANY DEATHS.

New York, Jan. 18.—At a conference of seven state marshals in this city it was agreed that fire in tenements, mostly women and children, is responsible for more deaths than in the United States, in addition to all annual property loss estimated at $250,000,000.

Publicity was suggested as the best means of preventing fires. Women said about carelessness and its cute in the newspapers," said an elderly Jewish woman. "They will be to convince the public that some women are careless, but stop our needless enormous fire waste."

OLD STYLE "PATRIOTISM."

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 18.—Iron ore producers in this city, and throughout north of this city, have reverted to their old style of "patriotism" now that the war is over. Unions are being formed in that section by the International Association of Machinists and Smelter Workers, affiliated with the A. F. of L. Some of the operators have adopted a victimization policy against the more active spirits among their employes.

FUEL SAVING RULES ENDED.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The fuel administration has withdrawn all orders and regulations, as of Tuesday last, ceasing one relating to national gas.

Cost of Living Jumps 70 Per Cent During War

Boston, Jan. 18.—The national industrial conference board, representing 17 manufacturing associations, reports that living costs for wage earners have increased 70 per cent since January, July, 1914, and November, 1918.

"This is a remarkable jump from last year, when the board placed the increase at 15 to 60 per cent.

"Using the cost of living index as a basis, it would mean that a worker receiving $2 a day in 1914 would now have to be paid a wage of $3.39 a day to meet the figures of these employers, who can not be charged with making exaggerated statements regarding living costs for their workers.

The conference board quotes the United States bureau of labor statistics, which has shown that during the two-year period from November, 1916 to November, 1918, the price of food, fuel, house furniture, sugar and pork chops advanced 88 per cent or more. No article of food or house furniture were collected showed an increase of less than 50 per cent for the five-year period.

ASK BOSSES TO ARBITRATE.

New York, Jan. 18.—The International Typographical Workers' union is printing in the daily press, in the form of advertisements, their proposal to the Boss and Wall Street Manufacturers' association to arbitrate a demand for improved working conditions.

In his letter to the employers President Howard says:

"Instead of considering our request, you have given a flat refusal from an organization of employers with which we have been working for 50 years. Instead of almost one year, your association notified us that unless the union will agree to surrender standards which have been in practice in the industry for more than 50 years, and will concede to the manufacturers the right to discharge workers at their discretion, they would not renew the agreement with the union.

"In taking this position your association has created a very grave situation, and unless your superior organizations come to an understanding immediately, there will be no end to the trouble and misery that will find itself involved in an embittered labor struggle which may spread far beyond our control and suffering and privation for tens of thousands of workers and for more thousands of persons directly or indirectly dependent upon our industry.

"We trust you will give our proposal your most serious and immediate consideration and that you will favor us with a definite and early reply, and that you will should we fail to receive an answer within a reasonable time, we shall be constrained to interpret it as a refusal on your part to accept our request and shall re-shape our course of action accordingly."

URGE PRIVATE INSURANCE.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 18.—A feature of Governor Burnquist's annual message was his advocacy of private insurance against industrial accidents. He refused to concur in the position of the state industrial board and the state of state official who has operated under the state insurance plan.

The governor, in his message, congratulated over this attitude of the governor. He said that he was opposed to arbitrary state public safety commission, nobilized organized labor, and "the state fund is a grave menace to the state."

Regarding the governor also favored the incorporation of labor unions "because they do not keep their agreements."

To this, Editor Cramer of the Minneapolis Labor Review replies:

"Burnquist need not worry about the unions keeping their agreements. They keep them and keep them more sacredly than he lives up to the constitution he has sworn to uphold."

COMPENSATION DECISION.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 18.—The state supreme court has upheld the compensation award of the state industrial commission in the case of Sam Hebeau.

While talking with a fellow employe in his work in a lumber yard, a piece fell into the throat of Hebeau and injured his throat. The industrial commission awarded him $52.08 as compensation and medical expenses, to be paid by the employer's insurer. The circuit court set aside the award on the ground that the employer did not support the finding, but the decision has been reversed by the state supreme court.

The court holds that Hebeau was performing a service growing out of and incidental to his employment and that this is the only issue in the case.

ENGLAND PAYS WORKERS.

San Francisco, Jan. 18.—In a letter to Secretary O'Connell of the labor council, William Hanson, president of the Pattern Makers' Association of England, says the industrial situation in Great Britain is uncertain. All piece work and night work on munitions of war, and the work of thousands of women have been discharged. In the meantime the attitude of the government is paying the women $5 and the men $6 per week for a period of 12 weeks after discharge, and a number of demonstrations of protest have been made. The men are being staged by discharged workers and because of this a number of layoffs have been made, and the discharged women are returning to their old occupations.

COOPERS VICTIMIZED.

Green Bay, Wis., Jan. 18.—Officers and members of local union No. 12 have been discharged at a plant in this city because they presented a new wage scale adopted by the union.

Milwaukee, Jan. 18.—The Fitzer cooperage shop refused to live up to its contract with Cooperage union No. 21 and discharged committee of that organization.

PURE FOOD LAW UPHELD.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The United States supreme court has upheld a Wisconsin law which prohibits the use of benzoate of soda in food.

CITY LABORERS GAIN.

Baltimore, Jan. 18.—Laborers employed by the city department have increased 37 cents a day. Sewer work employes will be paid 50 and 62 cents an hour.

R. R. PIECE WORK IS DOOMED; UNIONS WINNING LONG FIGHT

Washington, Jan. 18.—Before his retirement, by resignation, from the railroad administration, Director General of Railroads McAdoo ordered all regional directors to discontinue piece work in railroad shops "whenever a substantial majority of the employes desire such a change."

"It is important," continues the director general, "that this matter be handled without delay or hesitation and with a sympathetic purpose to carry out fully the spirit of these instructions. Please see that all officials concerned are properly and promptly advised so that they may act without delay as occasions arise."

The railroad executive was undoubtedly influenced by the organized shop men's agitation against piece work and is in line with his policy to develop a harmonious spirit among the workers, rather than engender ill feeling between them and the management.

As the matter now stands, piece work will be abolished if the men so elect. Officers of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, which represents the shop men, say that piece work will be overwhelmingly rejected, and in some cases unanimously. They base this prediction on the result of a referendum now being taken on this question by the department.

Acting President Jewell and Secretary-Treasurer Scott, of the railway employes' department, both declare that this is one of the biggest gains railroad workers have ever made.

"For 25 years," they say, "shop men have opposed piece work. This was the bitter fight in the New York Central, Erie, Pennsylvania and numerous other railroads."

The unionists point to their latest victory as additional evidence in favor of trade union organization and continuous agitation.

In several places, however, these elections were held, but the result surprised the managers. In the Wilmington, Del., Pennsylvania railroad shops the vote was: Against piece work, 1475; for piece work, 1.

The A. F. of L. railway department, which represents the men on the Pennsylvania system, under union auspices, resulted as follows: Against piece work, 2,741; for piece work, 58; not voting, 2,296.

The trade unionists predict that the vote will be a complete answer to "scientific management" advocates and their piece work theory.

REASON FOR I. W. W.

Washington, Jan. 18.—In reply to a request by a newspaper to comment on the publication in the daily press that "I. W. W.'s were creating unrest in Seattle," A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison declared:

"When I take into consideration the attitude of the timber barons in the state of Washington, or, perhaps, I would be more correct in stating, the lumber barons, who are refusing to recognize a union or permit their employes to organize, I am not surprised that there should be industrial unrest in that state.

"So long as the I. W. W. employers you will have I. W. W. employes.

"If employers desire industrial peace and the elimination of the I. W. W., they can secure same by entering into a collective bargain with the trade unions and conducting their industry in accordance with their employes.

"Unless I, in the Seattle, in my opinion, is the result of the intolerable and un-American position taken by the employers of labor in the entire northwest."

OFFERS NEW FOOD PLAN.

Washington, Jan. 18.—District of Columbia food administrator, Corcoran, the district government to take charge of the food business of merchants, at a reconstruction conference.

The district government would act as a clearing house, collecting orders for the produce that comes into the city and sending the government agent for the service performed. The plan would include the employment of workers who would grade the produce, appraise it, pay for it and then distribute it among the retailers, the wholesalers or direct to the consumer. In this way the government would protect the people and extortion.

"In other words," said Commissioner Gardiner, "the government could act as the commission merchant for the whole town. It would perform all the functions of the middle man without charging the middle man's fees and would do such a service for the community as no private concern would guarantee a substantial reduction in the cost of living."

PLAN TO SHIFT WAR TAXES.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The people must sleep "with both eyes open," if they would defeat a plan to shift war taxes from the few to the many, declared Secretary of the Navy Daniels, in a speech before the national popular government league.

"Already there is a well-connected policy of securing federal taxation which would reduce the part which corporations have to pay in taxation. "The pleas which will be made for this taxation will be made, and they will be put up in smooth-looking capsules. The junkers, who are resolved that taxation shall be light on these who made big money out of the war are past masters in camouflage."

UTAH LABOR HAS PROGRAM.

Salt Lake City, Jan. 18.—Officers of the Utah state federation of labor have formulated a definite reconstruction program which includes demands for an eight-hour day and self-determination for miners with regard to joining the union. Government ownership of the coal industry and a super-tax on unused land are urged, as is legislation for returned soldiers and government ownership of the telegraph and telephone and telegraph lines. The exclusive control of workmen's compensation by the state is favored.

WAGE PLEA IGNORED.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The house appropriations committee refused to grant the raise asked for a day. The committee has voted in favor of the contention that the employes of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing should be paid $6 a day. The committee has voted in favor of the contention of wage and related conditions.

FISHERMEN UNITE.

Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 18.—Representatives of two months' fishermen in this city have perfected a job per week trades union. The union, together with other northwest fishermen, are demanding that the intolerable working conditions in Alaska waters be remedied.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 18.—Governor Cornwell has recommended to the legislature a bill to repeal the law by which the state convicts are hired out to private concerns.

CAUTION IS A HABIT SAYS U. S. EDUCATOR

Washington, Jan. 18.—"Caution is a habit; accidents do not just happen—they are caused," declares J. A. Prosser, director of the federal board for vocational education, in a plea for the teaching of safety and hygiene in public schools.

"Accident prevention is conservation," he says, "for 90 per cent of our accidents are recognized as preventable. A very large per cent is the result of carelessness of some one; perhaps the careless act of a fellow workmen, or possibly carelessness on the part of the employer who failed to provide the safe working conditions. From one point of view, accidents are expensive. They cripple our industrial life and needless human sufferings.

"Caution is a habit. Habits are formed through training. Caution, then, we can train our future mechanics to use caution and avoid risk as a regular practice in their work. We will decrease the accident waste.

"School should teach safety and health. School shops must at least maintain the standards of the commercial shops. They should be models of safety.

"Another reason for complete protection of the pupil is the seriousness of maiming a person in the beginning of his industrial life and leaving him to go through life only partially efficient or perhaps wholly dependent.

"The federal board for vocational education is now preparing a course of training as an important part in vocational education. This seems to be an unprecedented opportunity by reason of the unique chance to interpolate these ideas at the most fertile source, to bring about ultimately most specific and covering results in accident prevention and safety education than has yet been accomplished."

MANY W. VA. FATALITIES.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 18.—In his message to the state legislature Governor Cornwell in a direct manner charged the state department of labor with incompetency and declared that the state has no statistics on the subject of industrial fatalities and accidents. Through the state's workmen's compensation department the governor secured a partial list, which shows 525 fatalities in the state in the last 18 months during the year. These do not include fatalities of accidents and those in other industries not reporting to the compensation department.

Regarding this situation, the governor says:

"Can we not do something to make human life and limb as safe in time of peace as in time of war? West Virginia cannot continue the high percentage much higher in industry than in war."

ORGANIZING MILL WORKERS.

Cincinnati, Jan. 18.—The United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers report that an organization campaign among cereal and mill workers is being carried on successfully. The A. F. of L. executive council has acknowledged the receipt of a letter from the chief of industries and federal unions referred by the A. F. of L. have been transferred.

WORKERS ENJOIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 18.—Deputy Sheriffs have served a temporary injunction against organized railroad men who are striking for Master Grocery and Baking company with moving its business because of a strike.

SCHOOL TEACHERS UNITE.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 18.—Public school teachers in this city have organized a local union affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

BAR WOMEN FROM JURIES.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 18.—The state constitution says that "no man shall constitute a legal jury in this state, and how the attorney general of the state contends that women jurors because "they are not male."